

# **TO PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FERAL SWINE IN MICHIGAN**

## **Resolution #12**

1 WHEREAS, free-ranging swine are not among the native wildlife of Michigan and the free-  
2 ranging swine population that exists today is a combination of free-ranging pigs that have been  
3 captured elsewhere and released for the purpose of starting local wild, free-living populations,  
4 escaped or neglected domestic swine, and/or Eurasian wild boar that originated on farms,  
5 privately owned cervidae (POC) facilities, game ranches, wild game breeding facilities, and other  
6 enclosed hunting ranches; AND

7 WHEREAS, these swine are aggressive, destructive, and often difficult to contain with fences;  
8 AND

9 WHEREAS, feral swine in Michigan's open spaces cause crop damage, pose a serious threat to  
10 the health and welfare of domestic swine, endanger humans, impact wildlife populations, and  
11 impact the environment by disrupting ecosystems; AND

12 WHEREAS, while there is no present indication that feral swine in Michigan are carrying  
13 diseases such as pseudorabies, brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis (TB), or trichinosis, the potential  
14 for this to become a serious problem exists; AND

15 WHEREAS, Michigan's success in achieving pseudorabies and swine brucellosis free status  
16 through the 1980s and 1990s, and later experience with bovine TB in wildlife and cattle and the  
17 economic hardship that this disease has caused, strongly suggests that every precaution should be  
18 taken to stop the establishment of feral swine in Michigan's environment; AND

19 WHEREAS, state law currently prohibits the importation and release of feral swine or swine  
20 crossbred with feral swine as this is a felony punishable by not less than \$1,000.00; AND

21 WHEREAS, biologists and professionals from other state departments of agriculture and natural  
22 resources have advised that typical penalties are inadequate to curb this illegal activity; AND

23 WHEREAS, ownership and ownership responsibility of escaped exotic swine from established  
24 facilities often cannot be established because current law may not require these animals to be tagged  
25 with official, unique identification; AND  
26 WHEREAS, there are no provisions in state law for regulatory oversight of the pursuit of swine and  
27 at least 40 facilities offer some sort of exotic swine shooting opportunities in Michigan; AND  
28 WHEREAS, to date, joint surveillance efforts by (Michigan Department of Agriculture) MDA,  
29 DNR, and the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), wildlife services indicate that  
30 feral swine have been sighted in over 55 Michigan counties and in several locations feral sows with  
31 piglets have been confirmed; AND  
32 WHEREAS, as MDA's Animal Industry Division Director and DNR's Wildlife Division Chief have  
33 no confidence that swine can reliably be maintained in captivity under husbandry conditions such as  
34 those prevailing on privately-owned shooting ranches; AND  
35 WHEREAS, wildlife and agriculture experts have serious concerns about the impact and risks related  
36 to feral swine populations and are troubled by the fact that existing law does not adequately  
37 consider these newly emerging pests; in addition, experience in other states demonstrates aggressive  
38 action is the only way to eliminate feral swine.  
39 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC as a matter of policy support the Joint  
40 Commissions on Agriculture and Natural Resources that recommend aggressive action to eliminate  
41 feral swine in order to protect animal health, public health, and the environment by directing the  
42 Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources to pursue the following  
43 recommendations:  
44 A. Ban all recreational shooting of swine behind fences.  
45 B. Depopulate swine from all Michigan Privately Owned Cervid (POC) ranches, game  
46 ranches, wild game breeding facilities and other enclosed hunting ranches.

- 47 C. Depopulate and seek indemnity for those swine described above not otherwise hunted for profit or sent  
48 to slaughter by a determined date.
- 49 D. Prohibit husbandry practices that involve raising swine for recreational shooting (such as wild  
50 pigs, razorbacks, piney-woods rooters, Russian and Eurasian boars, and crosses) for sale or  
51 transfer.
- 52 E. Prohibit the sale, importation, or transfer of swine for the purpose of recreational shooting.
- 53 F. Allow year-round shooting of feral swine as nuisance animals.
- 54 G. Increase fines related to the importation and release of feral swine into Michigan.
- 55 H. Use federal funds to trap, test, and remove feral swine from private property

\*This resolution was adopted by majority vote at the joint meeting of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and the Michigan Natural Resources Commission on April 12, 2007 at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan, Lansing, Michigan.

